

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Wachet Auf* Johann Walther

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

MINUTE ON STEWARDSHIP Jack Osteen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year.

All: We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. All we know is that nothing seems right, and nothing seems like it used to be.

One: The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down to make your name known so that nations might tremble at your presence.”

All: Tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

One: We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once again.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

* **HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us
light!*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Lord, in this time of Advent, we confess we often are distracted by the season’s busyness, by the stress of commitment, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas. Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You in our midst, for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and for all the times we have failed to hold the holidays as holy days. Pour peace into our lives, and let us be bearers of Your peace to others. Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest gift of all. In the Holy Name of our Savior, Jesus, we pray. Amen. *(Silent Reflection)*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE COME, COME EMMANUEL
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (Twice)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* **GLORIA PATRI** GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE** (Wave at your neighbor.)

CHILDREN’S MOMENT *Jesus Loves Me* Kelly Hickey
(Please remain seated in the pew with your family.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 2:1-5 Edmunds DuBose
Mark 13:24-37 Rev. Nick Cheek

SERMON “*Waiting with Hope*” Rev. Nick Cheek

ANTHEM *The Friendly Beasts* Arr. Lloyd Conley
Emmett Anglin, Recorder

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

* **HYMN** *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING
*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

* **BENEDICTION**

* **RESPONSE**
*Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Arr. Noel Rawsthorne
Postlude on “Lift Up Your Heads”

* **Please stand as you are able**

(Offerings can be placed in the baskets provided as you depart.)

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Worship and Sacraments, with approval of the Session, has decided not to place poinsettias in the sanctuary for this year’s Advent season. With the uncertain Covid situation, it was decided to use our resources in a different way. If you who would like to remember or honor a loved one, please consider making a \$10 donation that will be donated to the Fireside Fund to help those who have been affected by lost or reduced wages this year. There are many in our own community who are struggling to make ends meet. We will place an insert in our bulletin on December 20 with names of those honored and by whom. Please join us in spreading cheer to those in need this Christmas. Watch the Focus for more information!

ANGELS FOR UNITED MINISTRIES

Angels are now available on tables outside the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings (weather permitting) and other times in the Fellowship Hall during church office hours. (Masks are required and please practice social distancing.) When choosing an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. **Wrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 9.** Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the gift. Gift cards should be enclosed in a sealed Christmas card envelope with the angel taped to the top of the envelope. Do NOT wrap gift cards as a present.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Tuomey: Dave McInnis, Sr., Bill Scobee

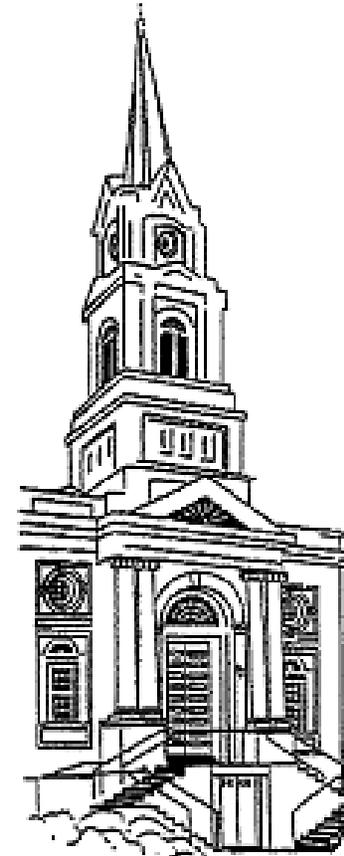
Home: Max Goodson, Emmett Anglin, Tiny Owens,
Serena Davell (Marie Mills' Sister),
Rick Parker (Lisa Bratton's Stepfather)
Charles King (Greg King's Father),
Ken Brown (Hope Alexander's Father)

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams

West Chester, NY: Rhodes Danner (Pam George's Nephew)

Austin, TX: Robert Cain (George Cain's Father)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



November 29, 2020